

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 have been amended as set forth above. Accordingly, claims 1-3 remain for consideration in this application.

The disclosure is objected to because of the noted specification informalities.

Accordingly, the specification has been amended, as set forth above, in order to correct the noted informalities. Thus, it is submitted that the objection to the specification has now been overcome.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

The Office Action indicates that, in the preamble of claim 1, the output shaft and the input shaft have no antecedent basis. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to correct this problem of antecedent basis. Specifically, the preamble of claim 1 now recites an output shaft and an input shaft.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationship of elements.

It is the position of the Office Action that the language in the last paragraph of claim 1 does not, “clearly point out how or where the front case assembly attaches to the power transfer apparatus.” Claim 1 has been amended to clarify this relationship. Specifically, the last paragraph of claim 1 has been amended in order to clarify the language. Specifically, this portion of claim 1 states:

assembling a front case sub-assembly onto said input shaft, said front case sub-assembly having bearings therein, for rotatably bearing the input shaft, and an actuator for actuating the transmission brake, wherein said front case sub-assembly is thereby mounted to a differential.

Thus, claim 1 now clearly states that the “front case sub-assembly” is assembled onto the input shaft. Furthermore, the “front case sub-assembly” is clearly recited as having bearings therein for rotatably supporting the input shaft. Additionally, amended claim 1 now recites that the “front case sub-assembly is “thereby mounted to a differential.” Thus, it is submitted that amended claim 1 now clearly states how the front case sub-assembly is mounted to a differential. It has bearings for supporting the input shaft, and a actuator for actuating the transmission brake. Accordingly, is it submitted that claim 1, as amended, overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

In view of the amendments to the claims, and specification, it is submitted that the Examiner’s objection and rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that claims 1-3 be allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection and an indication of allowability of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are issues remaining to be resolved in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.

Application No. 10/668,210
Art Unit: 3726

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 031123

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



William Westerman

Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 29,988
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

WFW/dlt